



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

May 4, 2015

JONATHAN LINES, TREASURER
ARIZONA REPUBLICAN PARTY
3501 NORTH 24TH STREET
PHOENIX, AZ 85016

Response Due Date
06/08/2015

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00008227

REFERENCE: YEAR-END REPORT (11/25/2014 - 12/31/2014)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 13 item(s):

1. Your Amended 12 Day Pre-General (10/1/14-10/15/14), received 12/17/14, Amended 30 Day Post-General (10/16/14-11/24/14), received 1/15/15, and Year-End (11/25/14-12/31/14) Reports combined does not disclose any payments for salary or wages on Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. 11 CFR §100.24 defines as Federal Election Activity, services provided by an employee of a State, district or local party committee who spends more than 25 percent of their time during that month on activities in connection with a Federal election. You are advised that payments for salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25 percent of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity or activities in connection with a Federal election must be made with Federal funds only. Please provide clarification regarding the lack of payments for salary and wages disclosed by your committee.
2. Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule B of your report to clarify the following description: "Voter Registration." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).
3. Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses payments for "Advertisement," "Communications Expense," "Direct Mailer," and "Social

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Media Consulting." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(1), expenditures for public communications (as defined by 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any such candidate for Federal office must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Only federal funds may be used.

Further, expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s). However, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.

If this activity was categorized incorrectly, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for this activity back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

4. Schedule H4 of your report discloses apparent disbursements to "LD 27 Republican Committee," "Pima County Republican Committee," "Yavapai County Republican Committee," "Gila County Republican Committee." Please be advised that contributions and transfers to federal committees and/or non federal committees/organizations do not qualify as shared expenses to be allocated between your federal and non federal accounts. Transfers to affiliated committees should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 of the Detailed Summary Page, contributions to federal committees should be disclosed on a Schedule B supporting Line 23 of the Detailed Summary Page and contributions to non federal committees/organizations on a separate Schedule B supporting Line 29. Any reimbursement from your committee's non federal account for any portion of this activity is not permissible. (11 CFR §102.5(a)(1)(i))

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The Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account, as reimbursement for the non federal portion, back to your non federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

5. Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule H4 to clarify the following descriptions: "Consulting" and "Voter Registration." (11 CFR § 104.3(b)(3) and 104.10(a)(4))

Additional clarification regarding inadequate purposes of disbursement published in the Federal Register can be found at: http://www.fec.gov/law/policy/purposeofdisbursement/inadequate_purpose_list_3507.pdf

6. Schedule H4 of your report discloses a payment for "Voter Registration" which appears to meet the definition of Federal Election Activity ("FEA") and may also meet the conditions of exempt party activity as defined under 11 CFR §§100.80, 100.87, 100.89 and 11 CFR §§100.140, 100.147 and 100.149. Please be advised that activity which simultaneously constitutes both exempt activity and FEA must be paid for as an FEA activity.

If this apparent exempt activity represents Get-out-the-vote activity conducted in connection with an election in which one or more candidates for Federal office appear on the ballot, it is considered to be Federal Election Activity. If this apparent exempt activity represents Voter Registration activity during the period that begins on the date that is 120 calendar days before the date that a regularly scheduled Federal election is held and ends on the date of the election, it is considered to be Federal Election Activity. (11 CFR §100.24) Further, Levin funds may only be used for these types of FEA if there is no reference to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office. (11 CFR §300.32(b) and (c))

If this apparent exempt activity is a public communication(s) (as defined under 11 CFR §100.26) that refers to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and promotes, supports, attacks or opposes any candidate for Federal office, it meets the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and must be paid for with 100% Federal funds and disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s).

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Further, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity and that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate.

It appears that you have allocated the costs for this activity between federal and non-federal funds. Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal or Levin account for Federal Election Activity costs referencing a clearly identified candidate for Federal office is not permissible and must be returned. (11 CFR §§300.32 and 300.33)

Please amend your report to clarify if the activity disclosed meets the conditions of exempt party activity and also if it meets the definition of Federal Election Activity conducted within FEA timeframe. If the activity does not meet the conditions of exempt party activity, please clarify if it contains express advocacy. If this activity does in fact meet the definition of FEA, please clarify the date(s) the activity actually occurred. Further, please inform the Commission of any corrective action immediately and properly disclose this activity, if necessary.

7. Please clarify all expenditures made for "Fundraising Retainer Fee" and "Venue Fees" on Schedule H4. If a portion or all of these expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified federal candidates, this amount should be disclosed on Schedules B, E, or F supporting Lines 23, 24, 25 and include the amount, name, address and office sought by each candidate. (11 CFR § §104.3(b) and 106.1)

Alternatively, if the payment(s) on Schedule H4 is associated with fundraising activity conducted for your committee's federal and non-federal accounts, it must be allocated according to the funds received method and the ratio reflected on Schedule H2. Further, it must be categorized as a fundraising activity on Schedule H4. Please provide clarifying information regarding the nature of this transaction(s) and amend your report(s) as appropriate.

8. Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses payments for "Insurance Premiums," "Payroll," "Payroll Taxes," and "Payroll Taxes and Processing." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal Election Activity (FEA) or activities in connection

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with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election. If this is not the case, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding any improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

9. Schedule A supporting Line 12 discloses a transfer-in from the "Republican National Committee." Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) reflects payments for "Signage." Please be advised that a state or local party committee may pay for campaign materials (such as bumper stickers, pins and yard signs) that are distributed by volunteers in connection with activity on behalf of the party's nominees in a general election and voter drive activity on behalf of the party's Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. Payments for this type of activity are exempt from the definition of a contribution or expenditure if certain conditions are met. The conditions are that no public advertising may be used, including distribution by direct mail (mailings by a commercial vendor or from commercial lists); all funds used for the activity must be permitted under the Act; none of the funds used may have been designated for a particular candidate; and finally, payments for the activity may not be made from transfers-in from the national committee to specifically fund the activity. For further guidance, please refer to 11 CFR §§100.87 and 100.147 and to the Campaign Guide for Party Committees.

Please clarify the nature of the transfer-in and subsequent payments for the aforementioned disbursement. If the activity disclosed on your report does not meet the definition of "exempt" activity as described above, any portion of the expenditures made on behalf of specifically identified candidates must be disclosed on Schedule B, E or F supporting Line 23 or 30(b), 24 or 25 of the Detailed Summary Page as appropriate.

10. On Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of the Detailed Summary Page, you have not included the mailing address for the payment made to "Salt River

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Project." Please amend your report accordingly. (11 CFR §§104.10(b)(4) and 104.17(b)(3))

11. Schedule L discloses "AZ FEDERAL" as the name of account. Please note that 11 CFR §300.33(d) permits a committee to pay the entire amount of an allocable expense from its federal account and transfer from its non-federal or Levin account to its federal account solely to cover the Levin share of that allocable expense. As the "AZ FEDERAL" account is not a non-federal or Levin account of your committee, such a transfer(s) is prohibited.

If the transfer(s) in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information. If you have received a prohibited transfer(s), you must transfer-out the impermissible funds to an account not used to influence federal elections or refund the full amount to the donor.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for the transfer-out or refund. In addition, any transfers-out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report covering the period during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning the acceptance of prohibited transfers, prompt action by your committee to transfer-out or refund the amount will be

12. On the Schedule L Aggregation Pages for the "LEVIN ACCO" and "AZ FEDERAL" accounts, the beginning cash balance, Line 7, Column A, should equal the ending balance, Line 11, Column A, of your previous report. Please clarify these discrepancies and amend any subsequent report(s) that may be affected by this correction. (52 U.S.C. §30104(b) and (e) (formerly 2 U.S.C. §434(b) and (e)))

13. Your calculations for Line 11 on the Schedule L Aggregation Pages for the "LEVIN ACCO" and "AZ FEDERAL" accounts appear to be incorrect. Cash on hand at the close of the current reporting period (Column A) should always equal the closing calendar year to date (Column B) cash on hand amount. Please amend your report to disclose the corrected totals. (52 U.S.C. §30104(b) and (e) (formerly 2 U.S.C. §434(b) and (e)))

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this

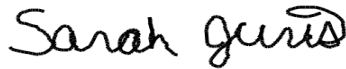
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matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1175.

Sincerely,



Sarah Juris
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division